GROVE

SCAN ME

GROVE is an Autistic-staffed specialist organisation supporting Autistic young people aged 8–18.

Led by an experienced educator with an MA in Autism (Distinction), GROVE brings together Autistic lived experience, academic expertise and extensive professional experience. Our wider team includes specialists with postgraduate qualifications in autism through to PhD level and expertise across education, psychology, counselling, youth work, mentoring and research.

Our work is relationship-based, child-led and grounded in affirming research. We create spaces where young people can explore their interests, connect with others, develop self-understanding and, most importantly, belong as themselves.

Peer GROUPS



Information for Commissioners & Referrals

Peer GROUPS

PEER GROUPS OVERVIEW

GROVE's peer groups bring Autistic young people together online in a neuro-affirming space. The focus is on connection through shared interests giving young people opportunities to spend time with peers who enjoy something similar, understand aspects of their experience and genuinely want to be there.

Groups are not designed to teach neurotypical social skills or make young people behave less autistically. Instead, connection is supported to develop naturally through shared activity and interests in a space young people can be their authentic selves.

SUITABLE REFERRALS & WHAT GROUPS CAN SUPPORT

Our groups can support young people to:

- Experience genuine connection with peers building friendships authentically
- Reduce isolation and develop a sense of belonging
- Spend time with other Autistic young people feeling less alone in their experiences
- Explore, share and enjoy their interests
- Communicate in ways that feel comfortable to them
- Experience enjoyable, low-pressure time with peers
- Be a space without pressure to conform and mask Autistic ways of being

Our provision can contribute towards relevant EHCP outcomes where appropriate, particularly those relating to connection, social confidence, participation, belonging, communication and reducing isolation.

WHAT GROVE GROUPS LOOK LIKE

Format: Small online groups (direct parent/carer support is a requirement for under 12s)
Duration: Most groups are 45 or 60 minutes per session, at least once per week
Age range: Approximately 8–18 years - please check the group theme
Delivered by: Specialist Autistic Mentors, all holding Enhanced DBS with Children's Barred List checks
Themes: Please check our current group timetable here

There is no lengthy tie-in period, but GROVE groups are intended to be a longer-term support to enable friendships to develop and young people to experience a sense of belonging.

COSTS & FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

£35 per hour

Groups can be commissioned through EOTAS/EOTIS, Section 19, EHCP provision, Local Authorities, schools, charities and other organisations as well as self-funded by parents/carers.

REFERRAL PROCESS

To refer, please complete this form once you have permission and approval from parents/carers.